

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W
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R 171550Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 229
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0142

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XL, JM, TD, EFIN
SUBJECT: MANLEY VISIT TO TRINIDAD AND US ROLE
IN THE CARIBBEAN

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 0033

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL
MANLEY PAID A BRIEF VISIT TO TRINIDAD JANUARY 9-12
ACCOMPANIED BY A TEAM OF GOJ EXPERTS. MANLEY HELD
A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER
ERIC WILLIAMS ON JANUARY 10 AND LOWER LEVEL EXPERTS
FROM BOTH COUNTRIES MET ON JANUARY 10 AND 11.
NEITHER SIDE HAS YET ANNOUNCED THE SUBJECTS WHICH
WERE DISCUSSED OR THE RESULTS OF THE DELIBERATIONS.
ON JANUARY 12 MANLEY LEFT FOR GUYANA.

2. MANLEY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY
GORDON WELLS AND DON BRYCE, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN
THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. IN ADDITION TO
MANLEY'S TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS AND
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FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN DONALDSON, HIS AIDES HELD
TALKS WITH A TRINIDAD DELEGATION LED BY FRANK
BARSOTTI, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE, AND INCLUDING THE PERMANENT SECRETARY IN
THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, THE GENERAL
MANAGER OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S

OFFICE. FROM THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATIONS AND UNCONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS, IT SEEMS MOST LIKELY THAT THE TALKS COVERED THE TOPICS WHICH MANLEY PROPOSED FOR THE CARICOM SUMMIT EARLIER THIS MONTH (REFTEL), INCLUDING TRINIDAD'S LOAN TO JAMAICA AND THE TRADE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE TIME OF THE LOAN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON SHORTLY AFTER THE MINISTER HAD SEEN MANLEY OFF AT THE AIRPORT. DONALDSON DID NOT DISCUSS THE TALKS DIRECTLY BUT SPENT SOME TIME ANALYZING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE SAID THAT FOUR MAJOR CARICOM COUNTRIES WERE LIKE THE MAJOR TRIBES OF NIGERIA (WHERE DONALDSON RECENTLY SERVED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER), EACH WITH ITS OWN SEPERATE IDENTITY AND WITH ITS OWN IDEAS AND AMBITIONS. HE SAID THAT HE BELIVED GUYANA COULD MAKE IT ECONOMICALLY GIVEN ITS LARGE LAND AREA AND ITS RELATIVELY SMALL POPULATION. JAMAICA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD GREATER PROBLEMS AND WOULD NEED MONETARY AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO GET THROUGH ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. DONALDSON SAID THAT HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME OF THIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
FAY

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